

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

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R 111653Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3111

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 10439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS SPEAKS WITH PRIME-MINISTER-
DESIGNATE MORALES BERMUDEZ

1. DURING LUNCH OFFERED YESTERDAY (DEC. 10) BY PRESIDENT VELASCO TO VISITING AYACUCHO CEREMONY DELEGATIONS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH GENERAL MORALES BERMUDEZ, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF AND PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE. SEVERAL ITEMS WORTH NOTING EMERGED FROM THAT CONVERSATION. FIRST, MORALES BERMUDEZ TOLD US THAT WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER TOP REPRESENTATIVES HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN DEALING AT AYACUCHO CEREMONIES AT TOP POLITICAL LEVELS, HE HAD BEEN SPENDING ALL OF HIS TIME WITH MILITARY, PRINCIPALLY ARMY, MINISTERS AND CHIEFS OF STAFF PRESENT IN PERU FOR THE CEREMONIES. HE TOLD US CONFIDENTIALLY THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING THE CHILEAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF WHO WAS SITTING AT HIS TABLE, WERE BUSILY ENGAGED IN WORKING OUT SPECIFICS OF AN ARMS LIMITATIONS PROPOSAL WHICH HE FULLY EXPECTED WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND A REDUCTION IN TENSIONS PERMITTING THE COUNTRIES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD TO CONCENTRATE THEIR RESOURCES ON THEIR MAIN
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OBJECTIVES OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. HE LAMENTED THE

FACT THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAD NOT FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO COME TO PERU AT THIS TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT VELASCO AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SUCH A MEETING MIGHT TAKE PLACE AT A LATER DATE. IN ANY CASE, HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE AND HIS LIKE-MINDED COLLEAGUES FROM CHILE AND OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.

2. MORALES BERMUDEZ ALSO MADE IT QUITE CLEAR TO US THAT ONCE INSTALLED IN HIS DUAL CAPACITY AS PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF WAR (SCHEDULED FOR EARLY FEBRUARY), HE INTENDED TO SPEND MOST OF HIS TIME FUNCTIONING IN HIS OFFICE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AS PRIME MINISTER RATHER THAN IN THE WAR MINISTRY WHICH HE EXPECTED TO LEAVE LARGELY IN THE HANDS OF A TRUSTED CHIEF OF STAFF.

3. HE EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH BESET PERU AND THE REST OF THE WORLD REQUIRE A COORDINATED APPROACH DOMESTICALLY AS WELL AS INTERNATIONALLY IF THEY ARE TO BE RESOLVED OR THEIR IMPACT SOFTENED. HE SAID THE EPSA SCANDAL CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR INTRA-GOVERNMENT COORDINATION IN PERU AND INDICATED HIS DETERMINATION TO OVERHAUL PERU'S PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MACHINERY IN A WAY TO PREVENT SUCH MALADMINISTRATION IN THE FUTURE. IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE HE REFERRED TO HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH FRENCH PREMIER GISCARD D'ESTAING AND INDICATED A KNOWLEDGE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL TRENDS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT WOULD APPEAR TO BODE WELL FOR PERU'S ROLE IN SUCH MATTERS DURING THIS TOUR AS PRIME MINISTER. IN CONTRAST, OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER MERCADO JARRIN IS ESSENTIALLY A MILITARY MAN WITH A POLITICAL BENT. OF COURSE, THE EXTENT AND IMPORTANCE OF MORALES BERMUDEZ' ROLE IN SETTING DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES WILL DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON HOW HIS RELATIONSHIP EVOLVES WITH PRESIDENT VELASCO IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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